

Beaver - Herald.

Official County Paper.

LILY and DOLLY WRIGHT
Editors and Proprietors.

A Communication on Taxation.
EDITORS HERALD.—As I am so frequently asked by the taxpayers for my views in relation to the important subject of taxation, considering the situation which at this time confronts us as a people, I have concluded to take space in the columns of your most estimable paper in which to express the views that I entertain upon this most important subject, and our situation at this time which is now being as universally caused and discussed.

I have, for a long time, had in mind the tax matters in this county and territory, and as many of our people know, I have unequivocally declared against the system as it is being and has been carried on, in an unjust discrimination of valuation of specific personal property, and upon a full and fair investigation of the matter I conclude that there are very many inequities in the provisions of our statutes touching the levy and collection of taxes.

I note first, that article 6 of chapter 70 provides that the several Township Boards shall act as a Township Board of Equalization, (which action is based upon the assessor's report, made in accordance with a basis agreed upon by the whole of the assessors of the county, under their oath of office) and it provides further, that the County Commissioners shall then meet as a County Board of Equalization, and shall equate the assessments so as to make each township equal with the other in point of valuation; and the article 7 of the same chapter provides for a Territorial Board which shall equate the assessments of the several counties, and that after the Territorial Board shall have acted the several County Clerks shall add to the assessment of each party the percent that the Territorial Board may have added to the county valuation or vice versa as the case may be in the action of the Territorial Board.

This seems but fair on its own face, but when it comes to detail it lacks almost everything of being either an equitable or just law, for the reason that the per cent that is added to or taken from the individual's first valuation is lost sight of, and by per cent of addition to or subtraction from the original valuation the final valuation is reached, and that, regardless of the actual value, and so by the act of the Territorial Board who neither see or know whether or not the property of the individual has been fairly or rightly valued in the first place.

Now, section 5 of the organic act provides and reads thus:

"No law shall be passed impairing the rights to private property, nor shall any unjust discrimination be made in taxing different kinds of property, but all property subject to taxation shall be taxed in proportion to its value."

Now it is plain to me that a law that loses sight of value, and without regard to whether or not the original valuation was right or wrong in point of value, is, at least, very unjust, when the value of property was its true value in the first place and then a sum has been added thereto, as in the present condition of the matter, and I feel positive and am well advised, that such a transaction is out of conformity with the spirit or letter of the organic act and cannot be upheld, and I very much doubt whether or not a law that provides for a horizontal increase or diminishment of value by a Territorial Board can be sustained under the above quoted provisions of the organic act, to-wit, "all property subject to taxation shall be taxed in proportion to its value." In this method proportion of value is lost sight of and the taxable value is finally reached by a system of per cents, based upon some thing, nobody knows what, and in view of the statutes that provides for a Territorial Board, and by the language of the organic act in relation to the matter, I am forced to the conclusion that the Territorial Board can go no further than to secure a fair tax for its support from each county, and that the action of the Territorial Board cannot be carried back so as to effect the individual in the matter of county, township, school, city and other purposes, nor for other than territorial purposes.

That there is a difference of opinions in regard to the right or wrong of this matter is but reasonable to presume, yet I am sure that the complaint of the wrong is universal almost, and I am so frequently asked the following questions that I conclude to answer them in this public manner: Ques. No. 1—"Judge, is there no remedy for us in this matter?" Ans.—Yes. Join hands and test this matter through the courts. Ques. No. 2—"Have we got to pay this tax?" Ans.—Yes, unless you take the proper steps to prevent it, and if in the end the action terminates in your favor, answer, no; and if against you, yes. Yet there is another way that you all have free

service of course, try it and hope for the best.

We shall soon be called upon to fill up the Legislature that will meet in our region our term, and to fill the office of the county. Be sure that men are placed in official position who are qualified, upright, and trustworthy to the interests of all the people, and when men in the Legislative Hall of this territory that will work in earnest to wipe from our statute all of the unconstitutional, conflicting and incongruous laws as well as all subdivisions in the laws, and to their places again such laws as will attain the welfare of the world by their fairness and comprehensive ness to all the people of this great territory, and such laws as will invite wealth and progress to join with us in making true our great motto "Labor Omnia Vincit."

C. W. BUGREE.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our regular correspondents.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 1, 1895.

There has been some little stir here of late in relation to Cuba. There have been a number of mass-meetings by prominent citizens in sympathy with that country. Only last night there was an unbounded enthusiasm at a mass-meeting which was addressed by a number of gentlemen who said very high things, and resolutions of sympathy were passed with a rush. These meetings not only take place in this city but are occurring every day in the other large cities, and it is ventured as a prediction that if this keeps up, it will in time assume huge proportions that Spain will certainly be attracted thereby, and what the outcome will be can only be surmised, but it does seem that Cuba will soon be free.

The President has shown himself somewhat interested in the New York campaign. He sent a telegram to Gen. Tracy, who is a personal friend of President Cleveland, in which he expressed an earnest wish for the success of the excellent New York State ticket. Senator Hill read the dispatch to an audience of 3,000 people at Albany, and it was met with a cheer that nearly rent the building in twain, and Senator Bill joined in the applause. This goes to show that there is yet harmony among a portion of the prominent democrats.

France has had two islands in the South Pacific, belonging to the Tahitian group, annexed. They are the Islands of Suhios and Borabora. This annexation has the consent of the native chiefs.

Minister Terrell has issued an Ultimatum to the Turkish Government, stating that the United States will hold it responsible for the lives of all Americans. The American missionaries have been notified that they must withdraw from Saseco in a few days. The withdrawal of the missionaries will leave the wretched Armenians at the mercy of the Kurds, the Turkish Troops being useless. The Kurds of Saseco are only held in check now by the presence of the missionaries, fearing to commit excesses in their presence and they threatened to plunder the Armenians after the departure of the missionaries.

Capt. W. T. Sampson, Chief of the Ordnance Bureau, in his annual report to the Secretary of the Navy, has submitted estimates aggregating \$6,457,984, for the next fiscal year. Last year's estimate of \$500,000 for guns for the auxiliary navy is renewed. The Chief says that of the 539 breech-loading rifles of all calibers thus far ordered 379 have been completed and 308 are now about. The Hurst method of gun construction has been tested and pronounced practically worthless. No satisfactory powder has yet been secured for the 13-inch guns, as the requirements as to velocity have been reduced to 2,000 feet per second with 13 tons pressure.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
U. S. Land Office, Woodward, O. T., Oct. 28, 1895.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed no ice of his intention to make a claim in stamp of his claim, and that said profit will be made before Carter Tracy, Probate Judge of Beaver County, and before the above-named F. C. Tracy, Clerk of said court, on the 2d day of November, 1895, viz.: Naomie M. Roads widow of Frank K. Roads deceased, H. E. No. 474, for the W. 1/2 of R. 27 T. 4 N.

He names the following witnesses to prove his claim: roads upon and cultivation of said land, viz.:

Arthur S. Howe, James A. Doty, Ernest Howe, Charles Babbs, of Custer, O. T.

42-47 R. 27 T. 4 N. J. Ray, Register.

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